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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Port Medical Officer of the Boston Port Health Authority, as required by Regulation 12 (4) of the Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations, 1959, for the year ended 31st December, 1961. It has been prepared in accordance with Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health.

It will be seen from the figures in Table B that the total number of ships entering the Port during the year has again increased. The number of foreign ships rose to 1,157, an increase of 145 over the previous year, though the coastwise shipping fell by 40 to 232 as compared with 272 in 1960. The total tonnage rose to 292,877 compared with 280,592 in 1960.

The trade of the Port was much the same as in previous years and there was little change in the principal foreign ports from which ships arrived.

There were no cases of notifiable infectious disease on any of the ships arriving in the Port during 1961. A seaman removed to hospital from his ship for investigation of a chest complaint was found to have an upper respiratory infection.

During the year investigations were made regarding a complaint concerning polluted mussels and details of this are given in Section XIV of the Report.

The number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued was 26 as compared with 24 for the previous year.

I am grateful to H.M.Customs, the Port Manager and all others concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year and to the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal and conscientious work.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8 Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

February, 1962.

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SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1-5-58.	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H.	Assistant C.M.O.-Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health-Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health-Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert.Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector-Borough of Boston.
MILSOM,D.H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1-10-59.	Cert.S.I.B., Cert.Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector-Borough of Boston.
SISSONS,R.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	19.11.59. (Resigned 30.4.61.)	Cert.P.H.I.E.B., Dip.Meat & Food Inspection. Dip.R.I.P.H.H.	Additional Public Health Inspector-Borough of Boston.
ALLEN,W.J.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	1.3.60. (Resigned 28.2.61.)	Cert.P.H.I.E.B., Dip.Meat & Food Inspection.	Additional Public Health Inspector-Borough of Boston.
SAUNDERS, B.J.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	26.6.61.	Cert.P.H.I.E.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector-Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.) Public Health Department, 8 Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs. BOSTON 4601 (six lines).

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected.		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors.	
Foreign Ports.	1,157.	239,533.	1.	79.	Nil.
Coastwise.	232.	53,344.	Nil.	11.	Nil.
Total.	1,389.	292,877.	1.	90.	Nil.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 190. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 135.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium Ingots, Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Fertilizers, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Salt, Sleepers, Starch, Steel, Telegraph Poles and General. Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Coal, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand Steel and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp, Nieuport, Rieme, Terneuzen. FINLAND : Haukipudas, Kasko, Pateniemi, Sornas, Walkom. FRANCE : Dunkirk, Gravelines. GERMANY : Hamburg, Rostock, Stralsund, Wismar. HOLLAND : Koog Aan De Zaan, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Ymuiden. NORWAY : Aheim, Mosjoen. POLAND : Gdansk, Stettin. RUSSIA : Archangel, Leningrad, Onega. SARDINIA : Cagliari. SPAIN : Almeria, Valencia. SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Halmstad, Stockholm, Stugsund.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

   (a) The District

   (b) Shipping

   - NO CHANGE -

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6)
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

- NO CHANGE -

5. Arrangements for :-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII).

- NO CHANGE -

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts .

- NO CHANGE -

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles .

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

The transport of all cases of smallpox is the responsibility of the Holland County Council who will provide ambulances together with specially trained and vaccinated crews.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. G. Nisbet,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough.

Dr. J. Glen,
Springfield Hospital,
Scarthoe,
Grimsby.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A. W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1961.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1961.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	Nil.
Brown rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination	Nil.
Infected with plague	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	14.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	12.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	Nil.
Total.	26.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of inspections :- General inspections : 90.

Nature and number of nuisances found.		Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	-
Structural Defects through wear and tear.	1.	Nil.	1.	1 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	5.	Nil.	5.	5 complied with.
Total	6.	Nil.	6.	5 complied with. 1 not complied with.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

During 1961 a complaint was received from an authority that mussels consigned to their area from layings within the Port Health Authority were polluted and unfit for human consumption. On enquiry it was alleged that these mussels were intended as bait but had mistakenly been sold to a fishmonger. During the year various samples were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Practically all the samples were found to be heavily contaminated.

	No. of faecal coli per ml. flesh on batch of 5 mussels.	
	A.	B.
Sample 1. North Bank - Top End.	46.	72.
Sample 2. North Bank - Lower End.	48.	44.
Sample 3. South Bank - Top End.	92.	60.
Sample 4. South Bank - Middle 1.	70.	34.
Sample 5. South Bank - Middle 2.	50.	40.
Sample 6. South Bank - Lower End.	18.	36.
Sample 7. South Bank - Top End.	70.	
Sample 8. North Bank.	48.	
Sample 9. North Bank.	24.	
Sample 10. South Bank - Top Middle.	48.	
Sample 11. South Bank.	6.	
Sample 12. South Bank - Lower End.	4.	

As a result of this and following consultations with the Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, I submitted a report to the Public Health Committee. The Council, at their meeting held on the 11th December, resolved to make an order under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, prohibiting the distribution for sale for human consumption of mussels taken from any such layings within the port health district.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

- NO CHANGE -

Food Inspection.

A list of the principal food imports is included in Table C on page 4. The main items of food were as follows :-

	Tons.
Grain (inwards and outwards)	40,000.
Fruit and vegetables (lettuce, tomatoes, melons, pears, apples, cauliflowers, carrots, etc.)	31,177.
Starch	12,946.
Glucose	3,263.
Onions	17,049.
Potatoes	16,332.
Confectionary	476.
Frozen food (mainly fruit and vegetables)	1,510.
Canned fruit	687.
Dehydrated vegetables	150.
Canned milk	58.
Butter	80.
Cockles, Mussels (in tins)	44.

During the year the following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit and were destroyed :-

Onions	5 tons and 2,881 ½ bags.
Carrots	26 trays.
Cabbages	3 ½ bags.
Potatoes	5 bags.
Peaches	67 trays.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.

Eight samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and were reported on as follows :-

Sample.	Number.		Result of examination. Lead as Pb.	Arsenic as As.
Apples.	7.	(1)	Not detected.	Not detected.
		(2)	0.4 p.p.m.	Trace.
		(3)	Not detected.	Not detected.
		(4)	Not detected.	Trace.
		(5)	1.4 p.p.m.	0.7 p.p.m.
		(6)	1.2 p.p.m.	0.3 p.p.m.
		(7)	Not detected.	Not detected.
Ox tongue	1.		Commercially sterile.	

BRITISH MUSEUM